



**Robert D. Soule, Jr. – NRA Certified Instructor – Pistol  
West Hill Pistol Training**

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Date: February 13, 2017

To: Legislative Appropriations Committee

From: Robert D. Soule, Jr.  
West Hill Pistol Training

Re: Governor's H.B. No. 7027 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM  
ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.'

To the Honorable Members of the Legislative Appropriations Committee –

I have learned that the Malloy Administration intends to try and balance their budget on the backs of the 250,000+ citizens of this state by raising the pistol permit fees and the fees involved in the application process to prohibitive levels in which the poor and working poor will not be able to afford.

As a NRA Certified Instructor in Pistol; who has constant contact and feedback from citizens seeking training as required in the permitting process; the common theme I hear from citizens are the costs involved to navigate this process.

The proposed fees and costs will exclude a large portion of Connecticut's citizens to those who are able to exercise their right to those permit holders who are able to afford this exorbitant burden. I urge the committee to **OPPOSE** Section 48 (T1854) and Section 58 (T1938) of H.B. 7027 that would support the Governor's proposed pistol permit rate increase.

If passed this would mean an over 850% fee increase for pistol permit holders over the last five years. Currently, the cost of Connecticut pistol permits is already triple the national average.

I respectfully urge members to eliminate this increase proposed. The prohibitive costs violate Article 1; Section 15 of our State's Constitution: "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert D. Soule, Jr.'.

Robert D. Soule, Jr.

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